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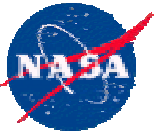
Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL

# SPICE Overview

October, 2001

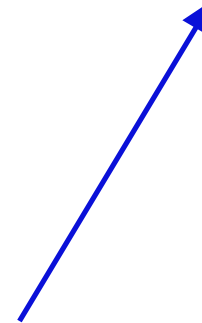
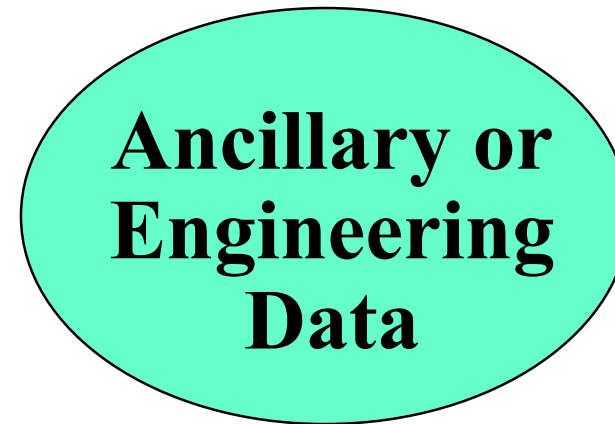
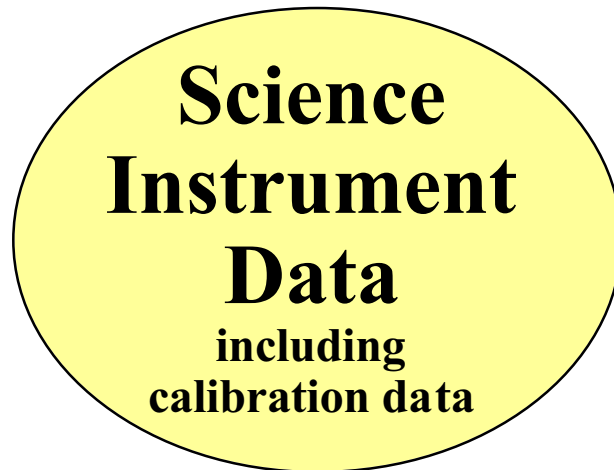
Charles Acton  
Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
[Charles.H.Acton@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Charles.H.Acton@jpl.nasa.gov)

The SPICE system has been developed by the California Institute of Technology,  
under contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration



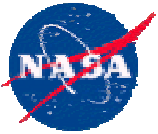
# Space Science Data: Two Kinds

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL



SPICE deals with these data

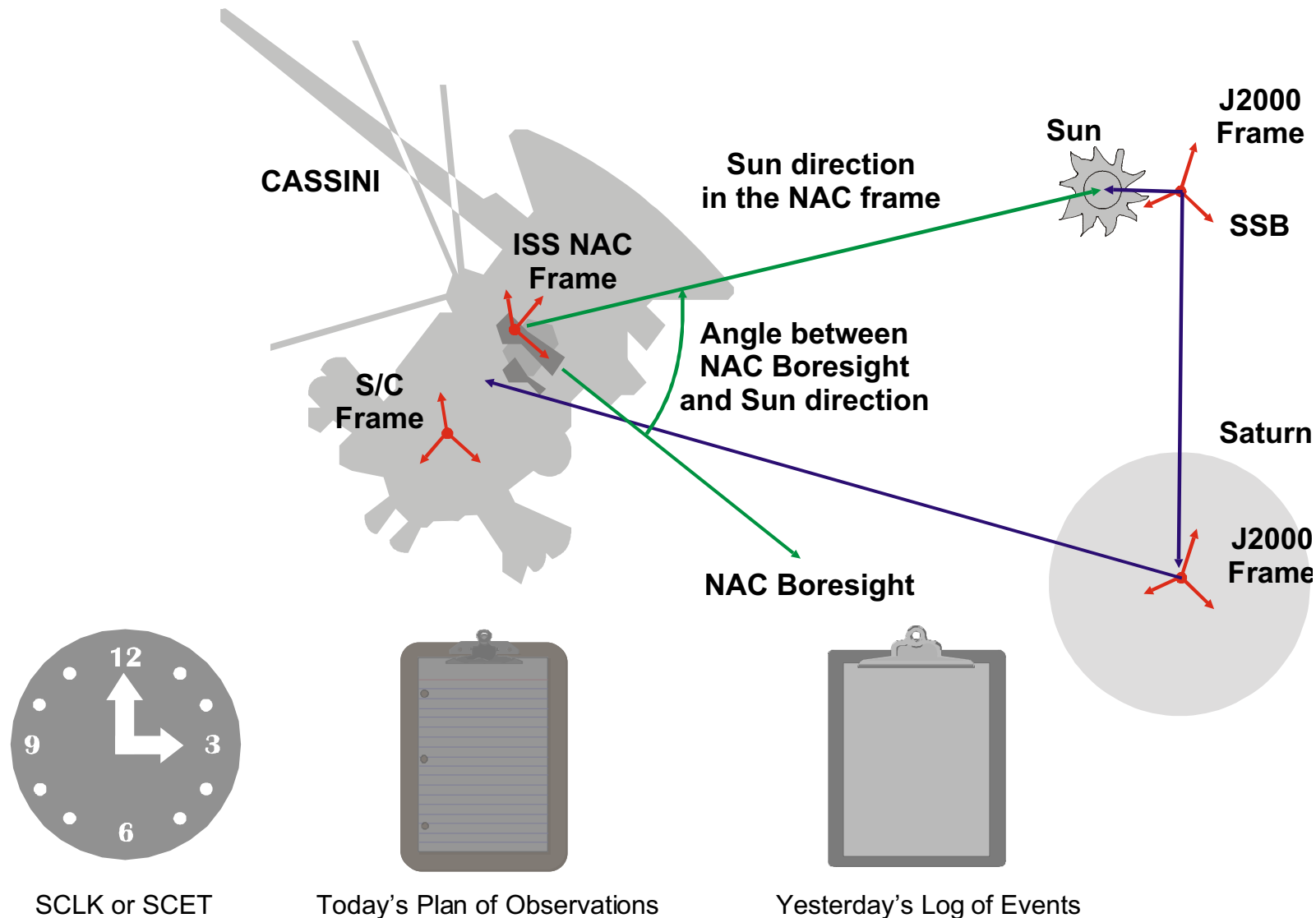
- Some from the spacecraft
- Some from the mission control center
- Some from the spacecraft and instrument builders
- Some from scientists

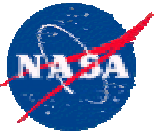


# The Subjects of SPICE

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL

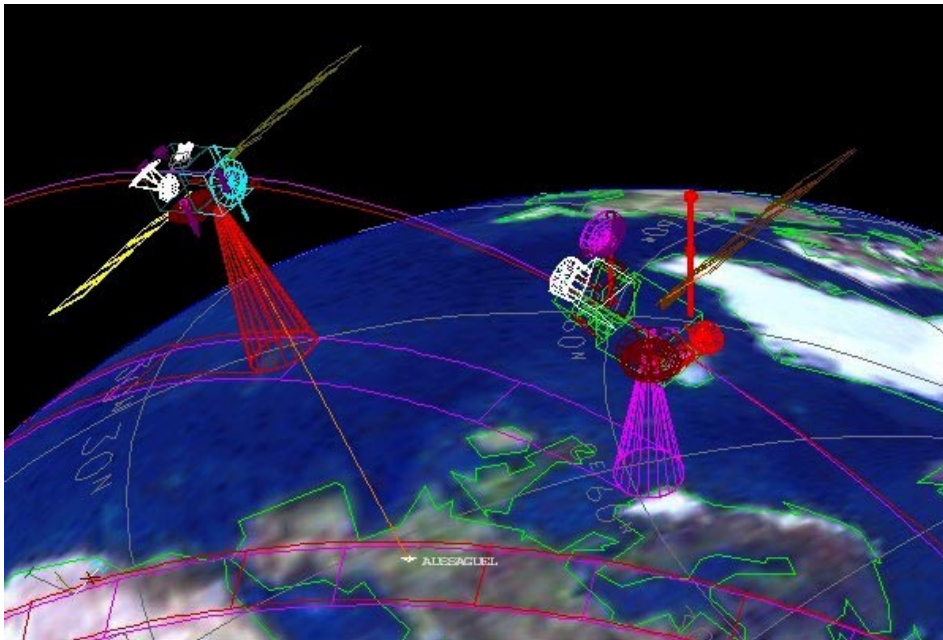
## SPICE Deals with Observation Geometry, Time and Events





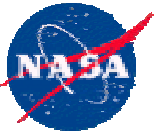
# Why SPICE?

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL



Knowing observation geometry and events is an important element in the design of space missions and in the analysis of the science data returned from the instruments.

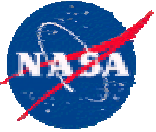
Having standard methods for producing and using ancillary data reduces cost and risk, and can help scientists achieve more meaningful and accurate results.



# What are “Ancillary Data”?

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL

- “Ancillary data” are those that help scientists and engineers determine:
  - when and how an instrument was acquiring data
  - where the spacecraft was located
  - how the spacecraft and its instruments were oriented (pointed)
  - what was the location, size, shape and orientation of the target being observed
  - what other relevant events were occurring on the spacecraft or ground that might affect interpretation of:
    - science observations
    - spacecraft systems performance

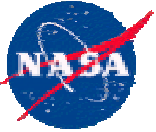


# SPICE System Components

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Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL

- The principal SPICE system components are two
  - Data files, often called “kernels” or “kernel files”
  - Software, known as the SPICE Toolkit
    - This software is, in general, not an executable program
- Also part of SPICE are:
  - standards
  - documentation
  - customer support
  - system maintenance and continuing development



# Genesis of the SPICE Acronym\*

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Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL

**S**

**S**pacecraft

**P**

**P**lanet

**I**

**I**nstrument

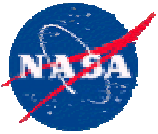
**C**

**C**-matrix (spacecraft attitude)

**E**

**E**vents

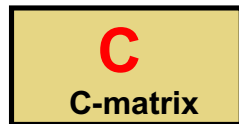
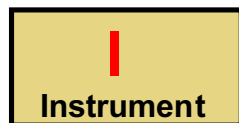
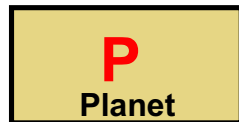
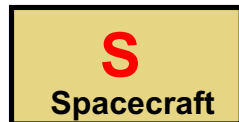
\* Coined by Dr. Hugh Kieffer, USGS Astrogeology Branch, Flagstaff AZ



# Logical versus Physical View

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL

## Logical View



## Physical View



**SPICE Toolkit**

Spacecraft, orbiter, rover or natural body trajectory

Target body (e.g. Mars) size, shape and orientation

Instrument field-of-view geometry

Orientation of spacecraft or rover or any articulating structure



Events information:  
- Science Plan (ESP)  
- Sequence of events (ESQ)  
- Experimenter's Notebook (ENB)

Reference Frame specifications

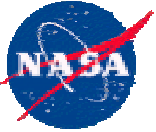
Leapseconds

Spacecraft clock coefficients

FORTTRAN and C module libraries, plus a few utilities and applications

 = "fixed" data  
 = time varying data





# SPICE System Contents - 1

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL

**SPK**

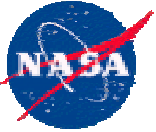
- **Space vehicle ephemeris (trajectory)**
- **Planet, satellite, comet and asteroid ephemerides**
- **More generally, position of something relative to something else**

**PcK**

- **Planet, satellite, comet and asteroid orientations, sizes, shapes**
- **Possibly other similar “constants” such as parameters for gravitational model, atmospheric model or rings model**

**IK**

- **Instrument information such as:**
  - **Field-of-View specifications**
  - **Internal timing**



# SPICE System Contents - 2

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL

A white rounded rectangle with a black border and a red "CK" in the center.

**CK**

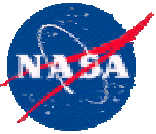
- Instrument platform attitude
- More generally, orientation of something relative to a specified reference frame

A white rounded rectangle with a black border, containing a red "EK" and the text "3 components" in red below it.

**EK**

3 components

- “Events,” broken into three components:
  - ESP: Science observation plans
  - ESQ: Spacecraft & instrument commands
  - ENB: Spacecraft “notebooks” and ground data system logs



# SPICE System Contents - 3

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL

**FK**

- **Frames Definitions**
  - Definitions of and specification of relationships between reference frames (coordinate systems)

**LSK**

- **Leapseconds Tabulation**
  - Used for UTC <--> ET time conversions

**SCLK**

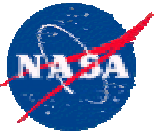
- **Spacecraft Clock Coefficients**
  - Used for SCLK <--> ET time conversions

**Other  
Kernels**

- **Mission** (mappings between names and ID codes)
- **Star (sky) catalog\***
- **Shape model for small, irregular bodies\***
- **Terrain\***
- **Control net\***

\* = under development

UTC = Universal Time Coordinated    ET = Ephemeris Time    SCLK = Spacecraft Clock Time



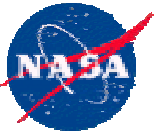
# SPICE System Contents - 4

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL

## SPICE Toolkit

FORTTRAN      C-language

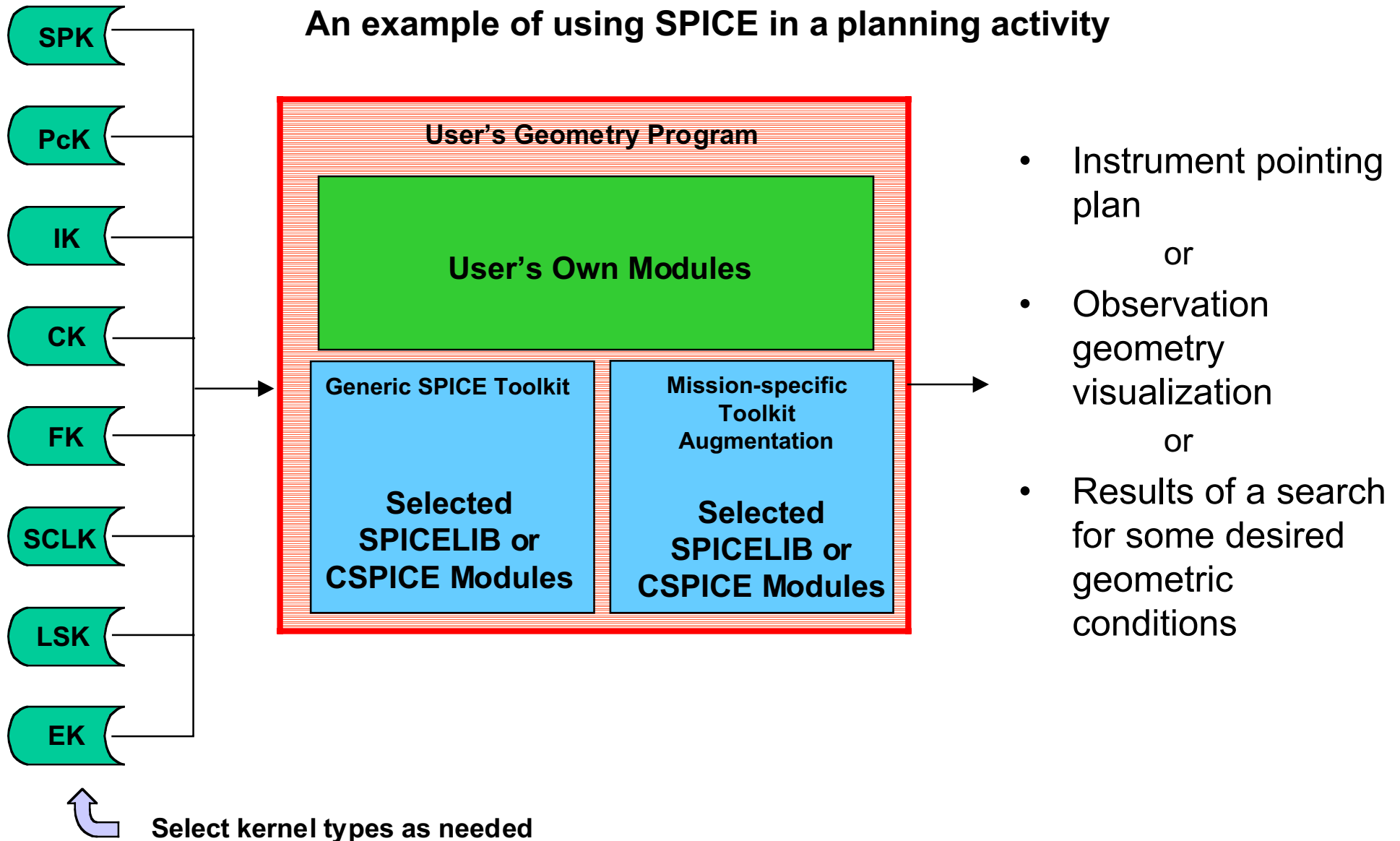
- SPICELIB or CSPIICE subroutine library, used to:
  - write binary SPIICE kernel files
  - read all (binary and text) SPIICE kernel files
  - compute quantities derived from SPIICE kernel data
- Example (“cookbook”) programs
- Utility programs
  - Kernel summarization or characterization
  - Kernel management
- Application programs (a few)
  - e.g. “chronos” time conversion application
- Kernel production programs (a few)
  - e.g. “mkspk” trajectory generator
- An IDLSPIICE Toolkit is being developed

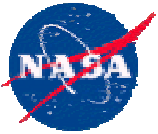


# Using SPICE Library Modules

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL

## An example of using SPICE in a planning activity

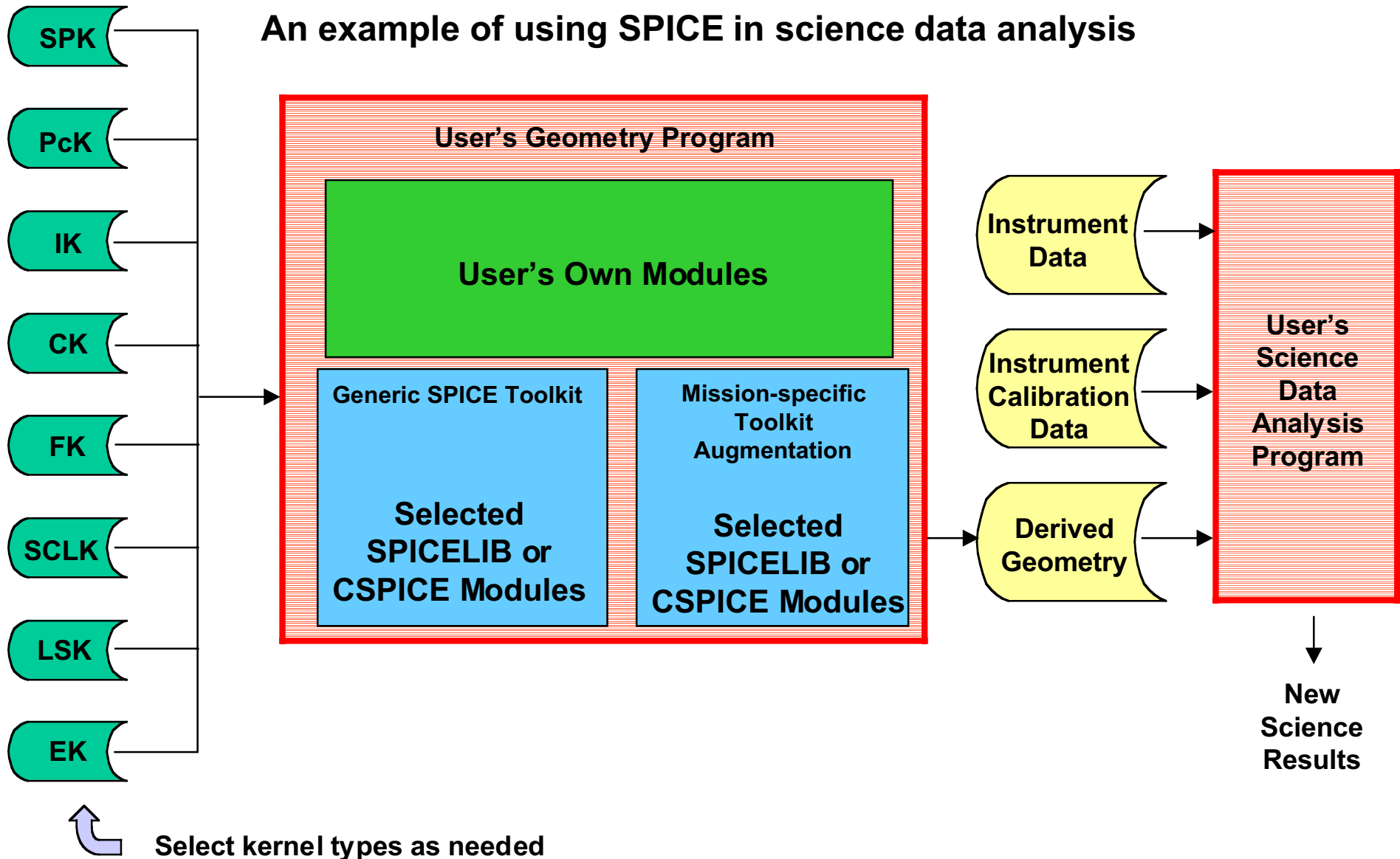


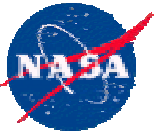


# Using SPICE Library Modules

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL

## An example of using SPICE in science data analysis



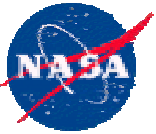


# SPICE System Characteristics - 1

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Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL

- Portable SPICE kernel files
- Portable SPICE Toolkit software
  - Already ported to and tested on most popular platforms
    - PC/Win, PC/Linux, Mac, Sun, SGI, HP, Alpha, VAX
- Focus is on the customer
  - Code is well tested before being released to users
  - Once released, code functionality is never changed or removed
    - Except NAIF does reserve the right to fix bugs
  - Extensive, clear documentation is provided
    - Includes well documented source code, provided to each user
  - The SPICE Toolkit contains some example (“cookbook”) programs
  - An extensive set of SPICE tutorials is available



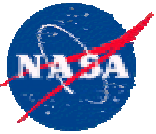
# SPICE System Characteristics - 2

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Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL

- All computations are double precision
- System includes built-in exception handling
  - Trace back , configurable action upon detection of an exception
- Has access to all of JPL's latest integrated ephemerides for spacecraft and natural bodies (planets, satellites, comets, asteroids)
- Kernel files are separable
  - Use only those you need for a particular application
- Kernel files are extensible
  - New data "types" can be added within a family
  - New kinds of kernels can be defined
- Broad applicability and good value
  - Multimission and multidiscipline (see list of major projects)
  - SPICE development and maintenance costs are shared across many customers



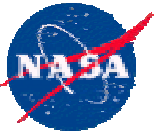


# SPICE System Characteristics - 3

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Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL

- The generic SPICE Toolkit is generally free to individual users
  - Core SPICE system development is funded by NASA's Office of Space Science
  - NASA flight projects fund NAIF to adapt and deploy SPICE in support of NASA missions, and for some cooperative missions
    - E.g. Clementine, Huygens Probe, Mars Express, ... possibly Rosetta
  - NASA provides consultation and some tools for agencies using SPICE SPK files to schedule Deep Space Network stations
- Very few restrictions on distribution and use of SPICE software and SPICE files
  - Note: SPICE software is copyrighted © by the California Institute of Technology



# For What Jobs is SPICE Used ?

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL

**Increasing  
mission  
maturity  
(time)**



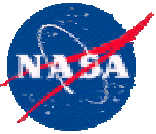
- Mission planning, modeling and visualization
- Pre-flight mission evaluation from a science perspective
- Detailed science observation planning
- Mission operations engineering functions

- Science data analysis, including correlation of results between instruments, and with data obtained from other missions

- Data archiving, for future use by others

← **The original focus  
of SPICE**

- Education and Public outreach



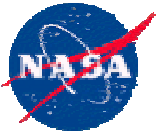
# What Vehicle Types Can Be Supported ?

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Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL

- Cruise/Flyby
  - Remote sensing
  - In-situ measurement
  - Instrument calibration
- Landers
  - Remote sensing
  - In-situ measurements
  - Surface analysis
  - Rover or balloon relay
- Orbiters
  - Remote sensing
  - In-situ measurement
  - Communications relay
- Rovers
  - Remote sensing
  - In-situ sensing
  - Local terrain characterization
- Balloons\*
  - Remote sensing
  - In-situ measurements

\* Not yet demonstrated



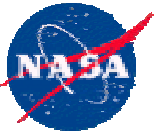
# Major SPICE Customers

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL

<u>Restorations</u>	<u>Past Customers</u>	<u>Current Customers</u>	<u>Future Possibilities</u>
Apollo 15, 16 [P]	Magellan [P]	Galileo	Mars 07, 09, ...
Mariner 9 [P]	Clementine (NRL)	NEAR	Nozomi (Japan)
Mariner 10 [P]	Mars Observer	Mars Global Surveyor	Messenger
Viking Orbiters [P]	Mars 96 (Russia)	Stardust	Starlight
Pioner 10/11 [P]	Hubble Telescope [S]	Cassini/Huygens	Rosetta (ESA)
Haley armada [P]	ISO [S]	Deep Space 1	BepiColombo (ESA)
Phobos 2 [P] (Russia)	MSTI-3 (by ACT Corp.)	Mars Odyssey	Europa Orbiter
Ulysses [P]	OTD (by MSFC)	Mars Exploration Rover	Pluto
Voyagers [P]	Mars Pathfinder	SIRTF [S]	Space Interferometry
	Mars Climate Orbiter	Genesis	
	Mars Polar Lander	Mars Express (ESA)	
	Space VLBI [P]	DSN Metric Predicts [S]	
		Deep Impact	
		CONTOUR	
		Mars Recon. Orbiter	

[P] = partial use of SPICE

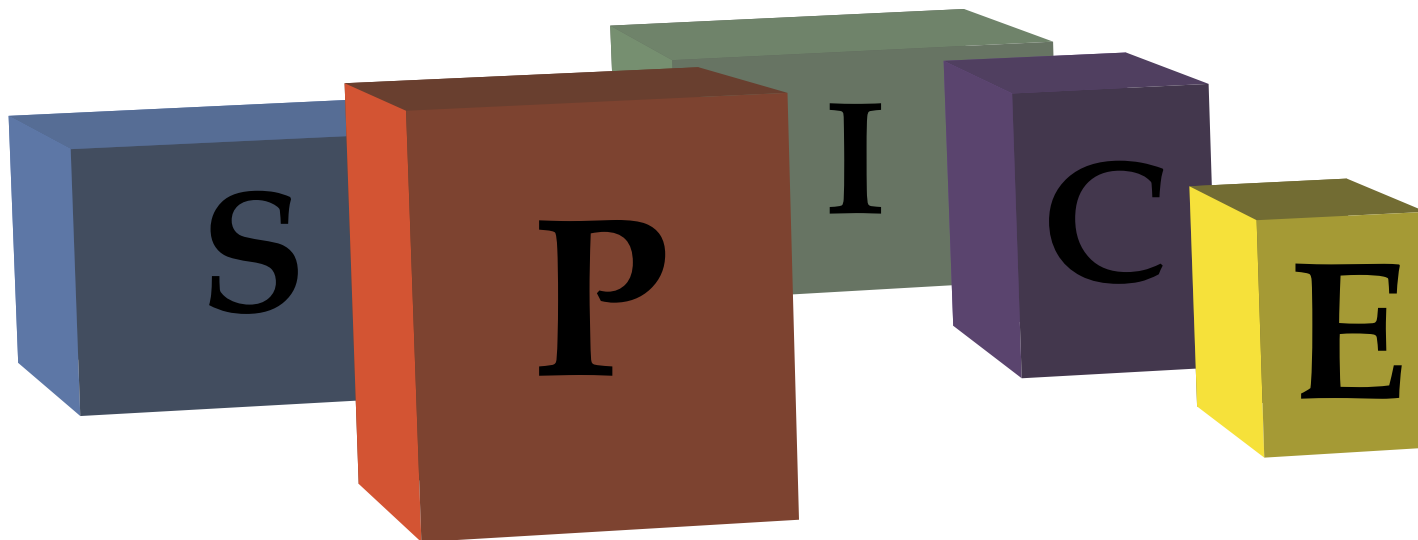
[S] = special tools or services provided by NAIF

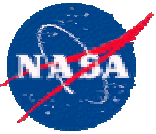


# Building Blocks for Your Applications

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL

NASA offers its “SPICE” ancillary information system as a model and core set of blocks for building tools that can help execute a multimission, international space exploration program





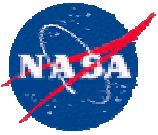
# Examples - 1

## What Can You Do With SPICE ?

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Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL

- Mission Design
  - Compute all interesting orbit properties; compare these with those of another design, or with another mission
  - Evaluate possibilities for relay link times and duration
- Science
  - Compute footprint coverage over time; compare against those from another instrument on your spacecraft or on a different spacecraft
  - Design specific observations to be acquired
  - Compute observation geometry needed to analyze your data, such as:
    - Lighting angles
    - Location (LAT/LON) of instrument footprint
    - Range and local time



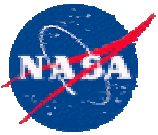
# Examples - 2

## What Can You Do With SPICE ?

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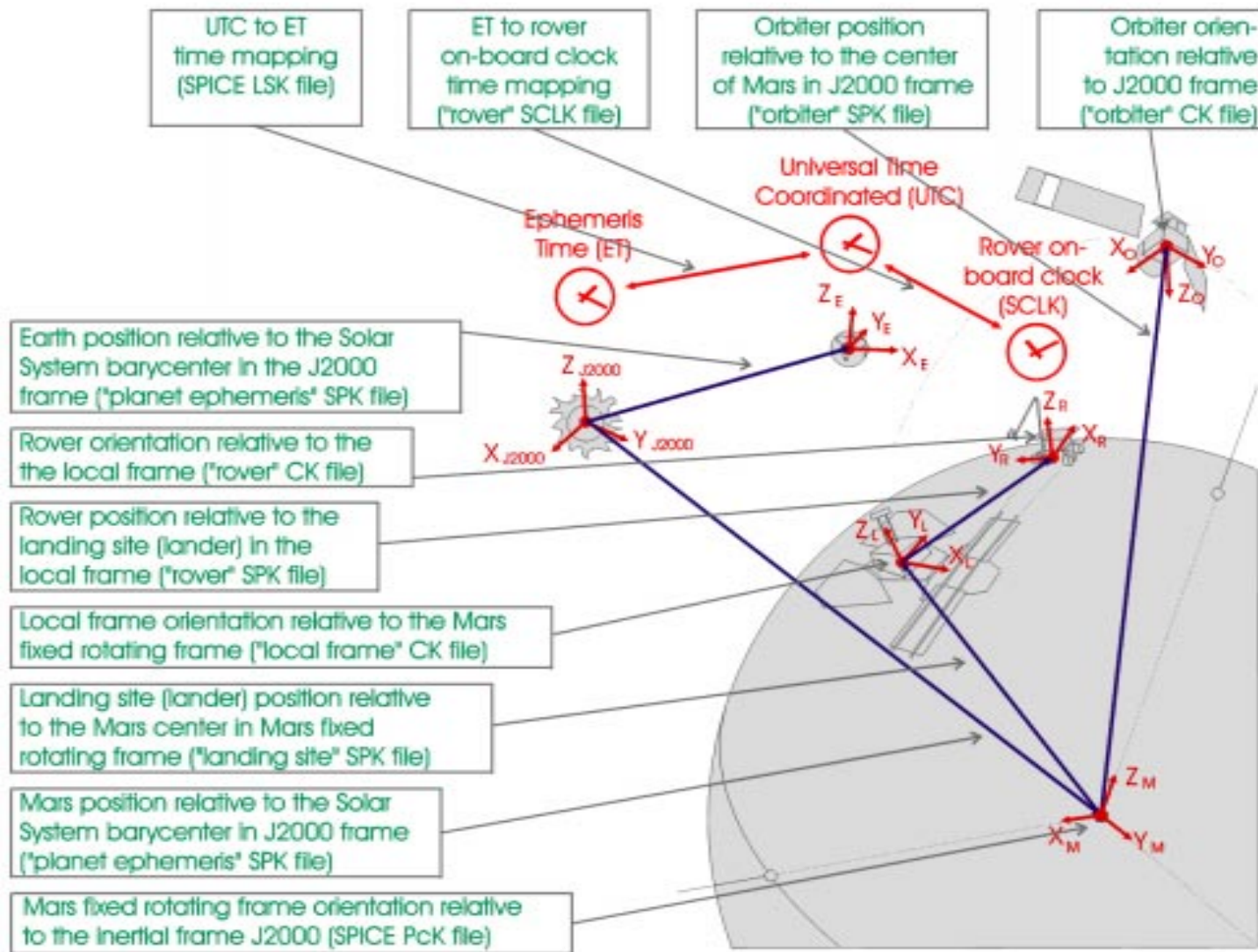
Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL

- Mission Operations
  - Predict or evaluate telecommunications link performance
  - Analyze spacecraft orientation history
  - Determine elevation and rise/set times of sun and tracking stations
  - Compute location of a long range rover or a balloon
- Visualization, Education and Public Outreach
  - Provide geometry used to drive web pages giving interesting parameters such as ranges, velocities, time of day on Mars
  - Provide geometry for animations showing orbiter location and orientation, instrument footprint projected on the surface, and locations of surface assets or natural features of interest
  - Help get upper class students involved in space mission design



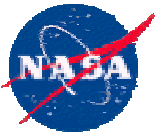
# Global SPICE Geometry

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL



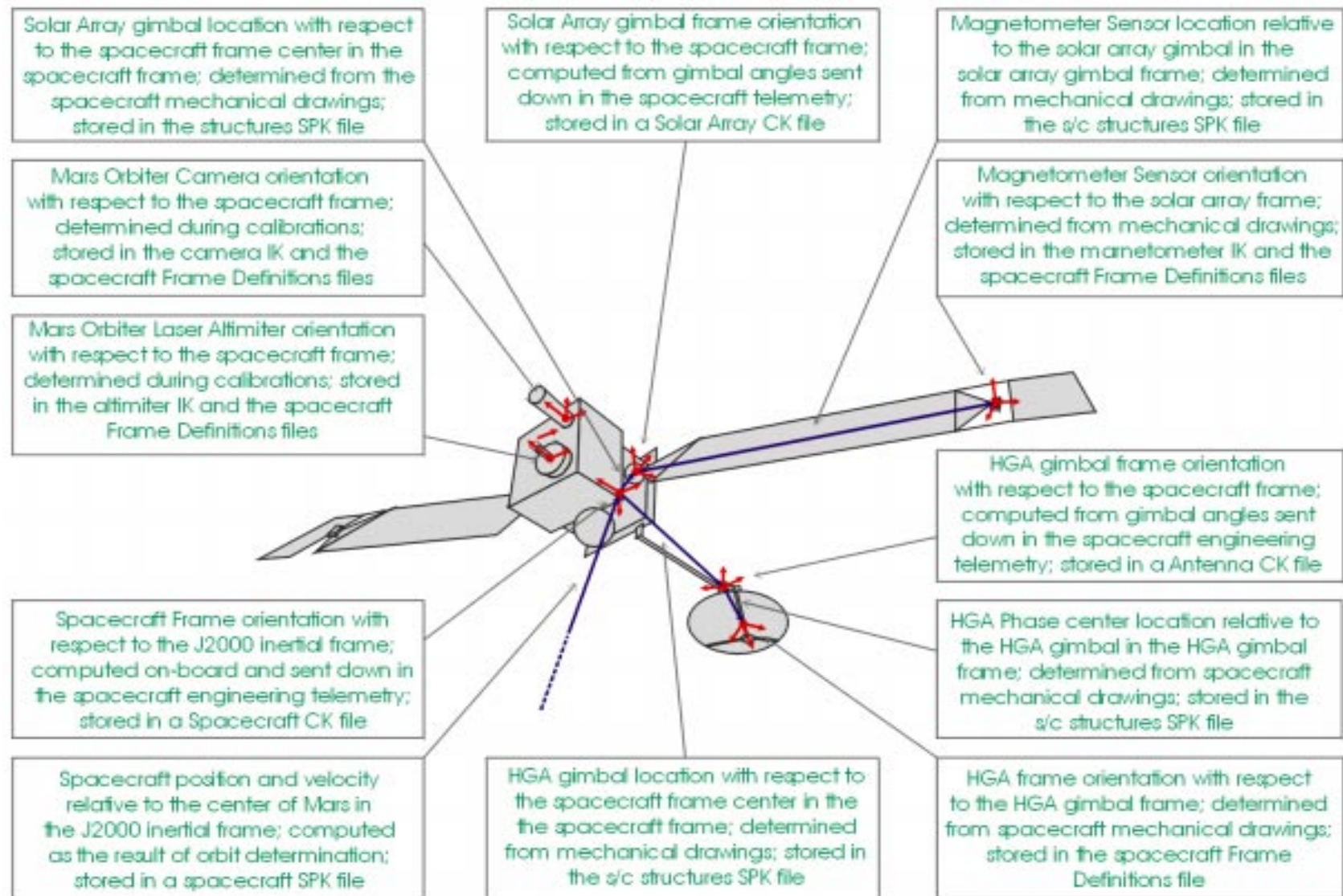
Applying SPICE to a Full Planetary Investigation: Orbiter, Lander, Rover



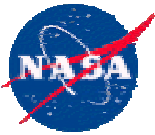


# Orbiter Geometry

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL

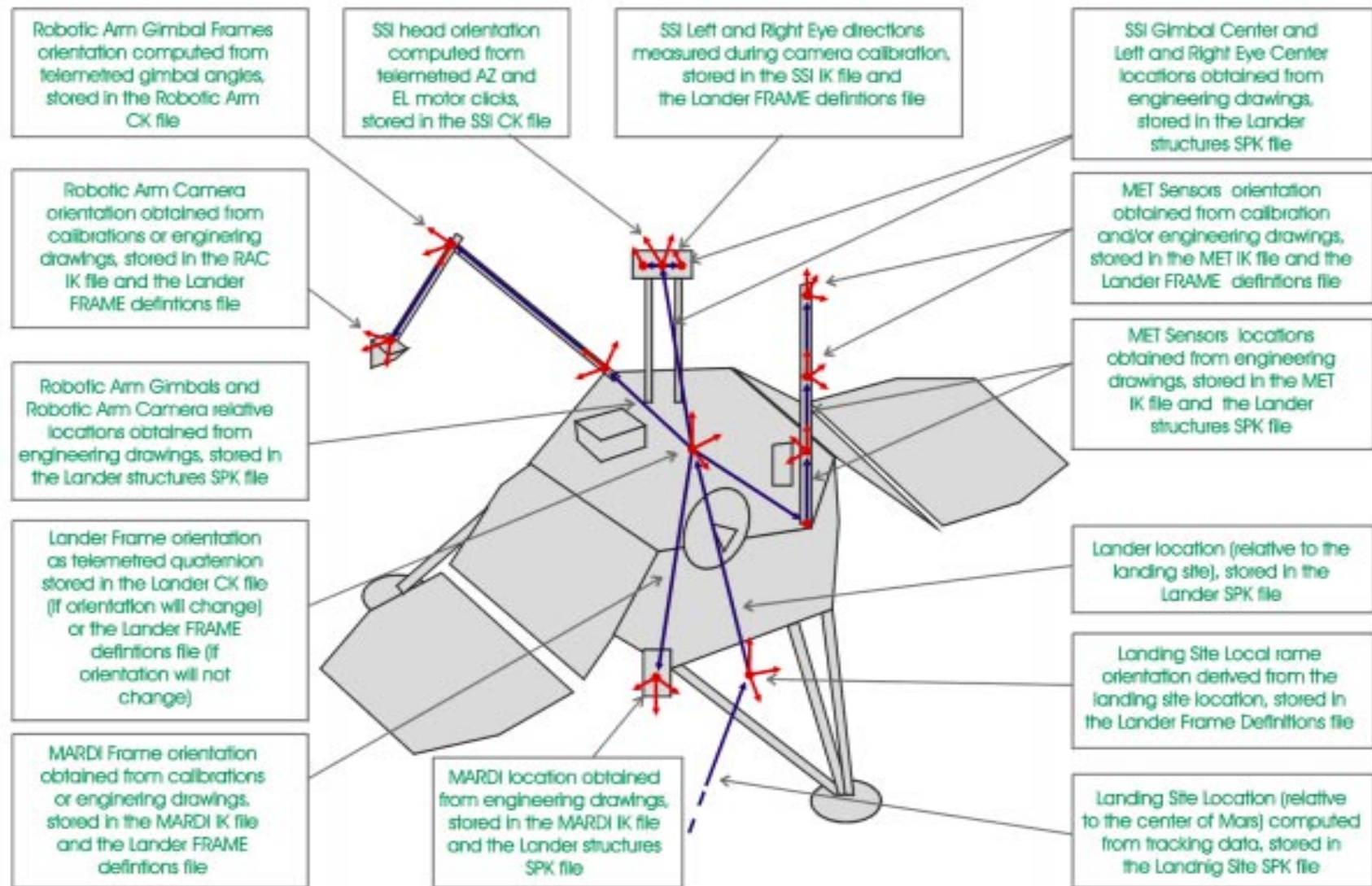


Applying SPICE to an Orbiter (MGS)



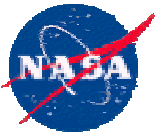
# Lander Geometry

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL



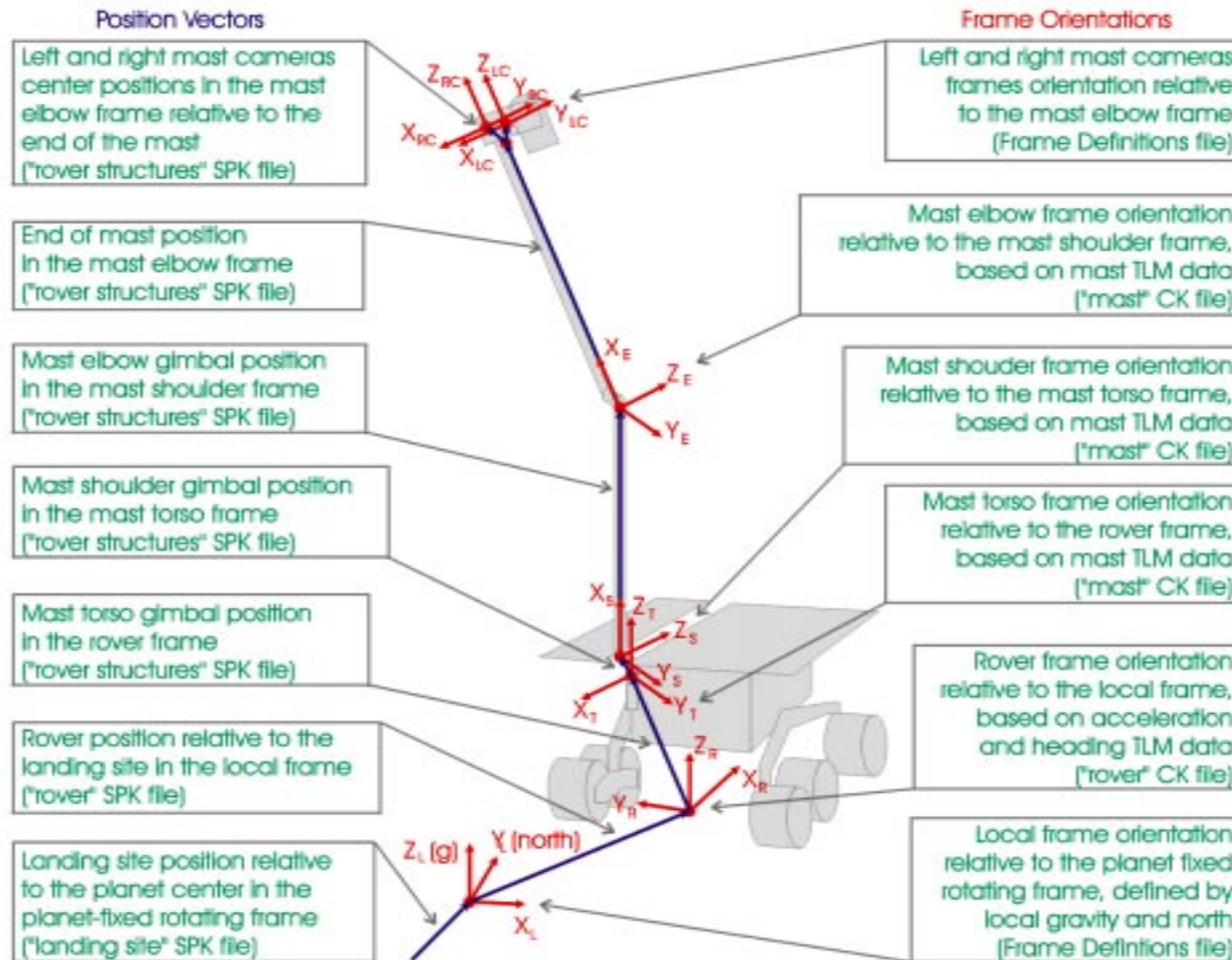
Applying SPICE to a Lander (M98)



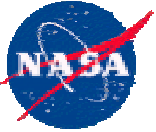


# Rover Geometry

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL



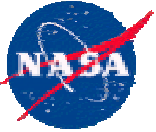
Applying SPICE to a Surface Rover (Rocky-7)



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Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL

# A Few Examples of SPICE-Based Applications

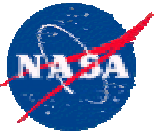


# Convey Trajectory Design

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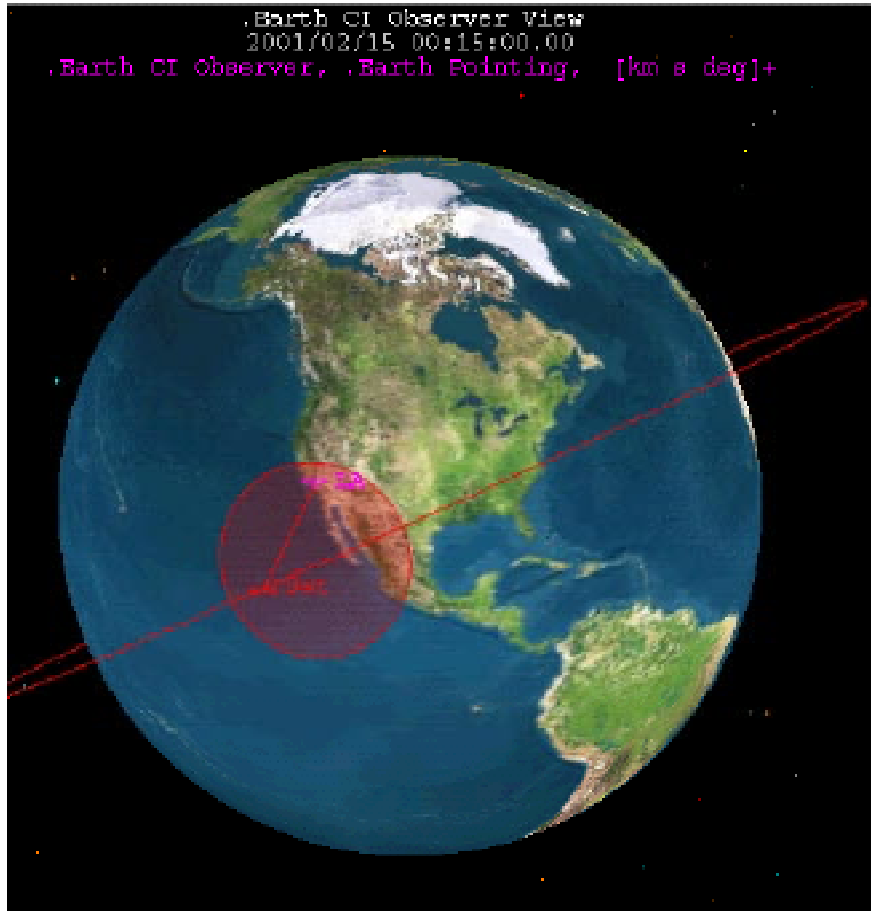
Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL

- Trajectory design tools can produce output ephemerides in the SPICE SPK format, for easy use in other analysis and visualization tools in the overall mission design process

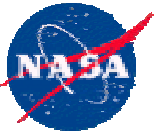


# Visualization Tools

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL



- Satellite Tool Kit (STK) ©
  - Analytical Graphics Inc.  
(Uses only SPK files)
- Satellite Orbit Analysis Program (SOAP) ©
  - Aerospace Corporation
- Pointing Design Tool (PDT)
  - JPL
- Science Opportunity Analyzer (SOA)
  - JPL
- Mars Express Science SOA (MEXSOA)
  - DLR, Inst. for Planetary Exploration
- Micro-Helm
  - JPL
- Cassini Pointing Designer (CASPER)
  - Univ. of Colorado
- Interactive Data Language (IDL) ©
  - Research Systems Inc.  
(Using SPICE “wrappers” around CSPICE modules)

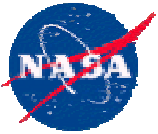


# Data Processing Tools

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Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL

- Numerous science teams have developed their own observation planning and data processing software systems which obtain needed observation geometry using SPICE files and allied SPICE Toolkit modules
- Engineering teams have built analysis tools which obtain needed observation geometry using SPICE files and allied SPICE Toolkit modules
  - Examples: telecommunications and thermal analysis



# GEOCALC

## A Simple, Limited Geometry Calculator

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL

Java/Spice Interface test

Kernels Computations Drawings Log

### Illumination Angles

Target: Mars

Observer: MEX

Surface point longitude: 114.786907

Surface point latitude: -14.773171

Observation epoch: 2004 Jan 4 08:52:00.707724

Compute

Aberration Correction

- ☐ NONE
- ☐ LT
- ☐ LT+S

Coordinate System

- ☐ Planetocentric
- ☐ Planetodetic

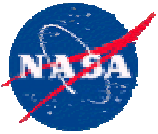
Illumination angles at surface point, as seen from observer

Target	Mars
Observer	MEX
Aberration correction	NONE
Time	2004 Jan 4 08:52:00.707724
Surface planetocentric longitude (deg)	114.786907
Surface planetocentric latitude (deg)	-14.773171
Phase angle (deg)	37.317459
Solar incidence angle (deg)	37.317454
Emission angle (deg)	0.000007

Compute the phase, solar incidence and emission angles at some surface point on a target as seen from an observer at some epoch.

In this example, compute the illumination angles on Mars at LON 114.7 and LAT -14.7 as seen from Mars Express on 2004 JAN 4 08:52:00. Can pick either planetocentric or planetodetic frame.

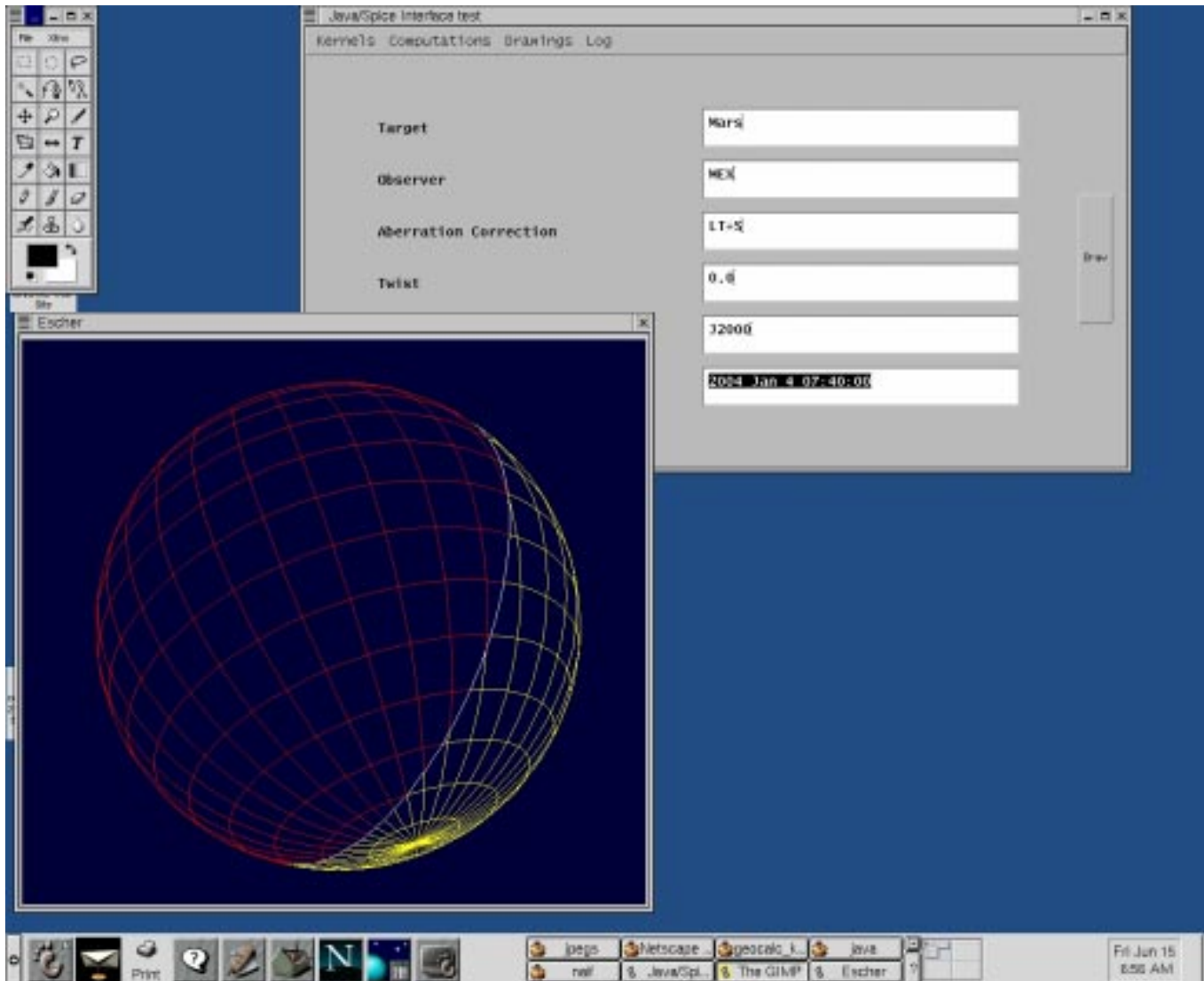




# GEOCALC

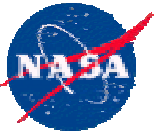
## Primitive Geometry “Snapshot” Mode

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Draw the appearance of a target as seen from an observer at some epoch.

In this example, draw the appearance of Mars as seen from Mars Express on 2004 JAN 4 07:40:00.

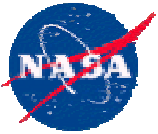


# Supported Platforms - 1

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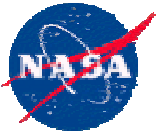
- The SPICE Toolkit has been ported to a wide variety of popular platforms
  - Each platform is characterized by
    - Hardware type
    - Operating System
    - Compiler
    - Selected compilation options
- NAIF provides separate SPICE Toolkit packages for each supported platform



# Supported Platforms - 2

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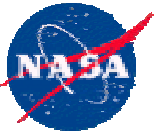
Hardware	Operating System	Fortran Compiler / Options	C Compiler / Options
DEC Alpha	Alpha Digital Unix	Digital Fortran	Digital C
DEC Alpha	Open VMS	Digital Fortran, DFLOAT	N/A
DEC Alpha	Open VMS	Digital Fortran, GFLOAT	N/A
DEC VAX	VMS	Digital Fortran	N/A
HP	HP-UX	HP Fortran	HP C
MAC Power PC	MAC-OS	Language Systems Fortran 3.3	Metrowerks CodeWarrior C 5.3
MAC Power PC	MAC-OS	Absoft Fortran 4.4	



# Supported Platforms - 3

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility - JPL

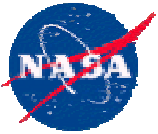
Hardware	Operating System	Fortran Compiler / Options	C Compiler / Options
PC	Red Hat Linux	Fort77 (f2c/gcc)	gcc
PC	Red Hat Linux 6.1+	g77	gcc
PC	MS Windows 95/98/NT	Digital Fortran, version 6	MS Visual C++/C
SGI	IRIX	SGI Fortran, N32 ABI	MIPS C, N32 ABI
SGI	IRIX	SGI Fortran, O32 ABI	MIPS C, O32 ABI
Sun	Solaris	Sun Fortran	Sun C
Sun	Solaris	N/A	gcc



# Access to Toolkit and Tutorials

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- Packages for all SPICE Toolkit environments are available from NAIF's anonymous ftp server:
  - `ftp://naif.jpl.nasa.gov/pub/naif/toolkit/`
  - Select either the FORTRAN or C directory
  - Select the environment you want (platform/OS/compiler)
  - Follow the instructions in the README file
- A set of SPICE tutorial packages is available from NAIF's anonymous ftp server:
  - `ftp://naif.jpl.nasa.gov/pub/naif/tutorial/current/`
  - These are available in MS Office format (and soon PDF also)
  - The file named `02_tutorials_index` provides an index of the complete set of packages (see next two charts)
  - Download the tutorials using binary mode of FTP

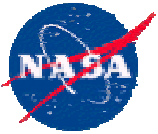


# SPICE Tutorials - 1

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## Index - Page 1

Tutorial Number	File Name	Length (pages)	Topic
1	readme	2	Description of these Tutorials (plain ASCII text document)
2	tutorials_index.xls	1	Index of SPICE Tutorials (MS Excel document)
3	purpose_scope	3	Tutorials Purpose and Scope
4	tutorials_intro	6	Tutorials Introduction
5	motivation	6	Motivation for Development of SPICE
6	spice_overview	18	SPICE Overview
7	concepts	47	Basic Concepts (of observation geometry, regardless of SPICE)
8	intro_to_kernels	11	Intro to Kernel Files
9	porting_kernels	11	Porting Kernels Between Computers
10	intro_to_toolkit	23	Intro to Toolkit: libraries, utilities, applications, documentation
11	metadata	8	Metadata in SPICE Kernels (use of comment area, etc.)
12	conventions	12	SPICE Conventions
13	time	10	Time: Conversions and Formats
14	spk	26	SPK (Ephemeris subsystem)
15	pck	15	PCK (Planetary cartographic constants)
16	ik	22	IK (Instrument information)
17	ck	16	CK (Orientation information)
18	fk	8	FK (Reference frames specifications)



# SPICE Tutorials - 2

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## Index - Page 2

Tutorial Number	File Name	Length (pages)	Topic
21	mk	4	MK: The Mission Kernel Concept
22	derived_quantities	15	Computing Derived Quantities
23	other_functions	19	Other Useful SPICELIB Functions
24	toolkit_utils	24	Using SPICE Toolkit Utilities
25	toolkit_apps	29	Using Toolkit Applications
26	idl_interface	8	Interfacing IDL to CSPICE
27	program_c	23	Demo: writing a SPICE-based application (C language)
28	program_fortran	28	Demo: writing a SPICE-based application (Fortran)
29	program_visibility	12	Demo: computing visibility (Fortran)
30	spice_dev_plans	16	Plans for Further SPICE System Development
31	installing	6	SPICE Toolkit Installation
32	exceptions	18	Exception Handling (How SPICE handles detectable errors)
33	common_problems	5	Common Problems (a "pointer" to Common Problems document)
34	ek_intro	9	Events Kernel (EK): Introduction
35	ek_esp	3	EK - Science Plan Component (ESP)
36	ek_esq	14	EK - Sequence Component (ESQ)
37	ek_enb	13	EK - Notebook Component (ENB)
38	docs_taxonomy	10	SPICE Documentation Taxonomy (MS Word document)
	most_useful		Summary of the most useful SPICELIB subroutines (MS Word )